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# Utah Watershed Review

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## Special Focus: NPS Awards and Recognition

### UDAF's Peterson, Hopkin Honored by EPA

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JACKSONHOLE, WYOMING,  
October 3, 2001 - - Cary G. Peterson, Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food and George Hopkin, Chief of Environmental Quality were recognized by the US EPA for their leadership in helping Utah farmers and ranchers address water quality concerns. Peterson received the Region 8 "Administrator's Award" and Hopkin received the "Friend of EPA Award".

The EPA's Region 8 semiannual meeting held in Jackson Hole, provided an opportunity for state agriculture commissioners and environmental quality administrators from Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota to coordinate efforts, share concerns and develop strategy. Christine Todd-Whitman, EPA Administrator joined with the Region 8 staff and state leaders to map out a strategy for the federal/state partnership.

"I recognize that agriculture is impacted by decisions made by EPA and working together is the best way for us to address the issues," Whitman pointed out. "I am happy with the direction Region 8 is moving and the relationship between our agency and the states. I would like to replicate this relationship in other regions across the U. S."

Governor Whitman reported on her agency's involvement in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on New York and Washington D. C. She visited the World Trade Center site within days of the attack acknowledg-

ing the devastation she witnessed, but said "this type of full-scale attack is not expected again." "We are however, concerned that we will see targeted events to disrupt the daily business of America," she said. "As part of the Administration's Homeland Security Program we expect that the states will have lead roles as we monitor agricultural chemicals, herbicides, pesticides, crop dusters, unusual purchases and what products are available that terrorists might use. As a past Governor, I want EPA to be more flexible so I encourage the states to be proactive in identifying areas of need and provide us justification for change," Whitman concluded.

Major issues of discussion at the two-day conference included Carbon sequestration, concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), total maximum daily loads (TMDL's), the pending farm bill, grazing lands and the drought. Conference host Wyoming Commissioner of Agriculture Ron Micheli welcomed the group.

In recognizing Peterson and Hopkin, Acting Region 8 Administrator Jack McGraw said "Utah has been a leader in developing a state AFO/CAFO strategy that is reflective of farmers and ranchers needs." "The Utah AFO/CAFO Strategy that incorporates a voluntary, incentive-based approach has been identified as a national model," McGraw said.

In accepting the Region 8 Administrator's Award, Peterson gave credit to members of his staff and the partnership his agency has



George Hopkin, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, proudly displays his "Friend of EPA" award with regional and national EPA leaders. Pictured left to right: Jack McGraw, acting regional administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII; Christine Todd-Whitman, US EPA Administrator; Hopkin; and Kerry Clough, EPA Region VIII.

Award	Recipient
Region 8 Administrator's Award	Cary G. Peterson, UDAF Commissioner
Friend of EPA Region 8	George Hopkin, UDAF

with Utah's agriculture industry. "Utah's farmers and ranchers are generally good stewards of the land and water and we want to provide them with additional tools and assistance for making improvements," Peterson said.

Hopkin, who has coordinated UDAF's Environmental Quality Program for over a decade, has been an advocate for farmer and rancher input championed the Utah's voluntary, incentive-based AFO/CAFO Strategy.

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# Governor's Water Quality Award Recognize Variety of Accomplishments

The Utah Governor's Water Quality awards are back. Started in the early 1990s as part of the annual Utah Nonpoint Source (NPS) Water Quality Conference, the award recognize individual and group accomplishments in NPS prevention and control efforts.

During the late 90s the awards program just faded away. But now, under the leadership of Nancy Mesner, Utah State University, the program is back and bigger than ever. More than \$3,000 dollars were awarded in three categories: Individual Accomplished, Group Accom-

plishment and Educator Accomplishment. The educators awards are new this year. The awards were presented during an awards luncheon in St. George as part of the 12th Annual Utah NPS conference in late September. Those recipients not able to attend were

presented their awards locally. Along with Mesner, the awards selection committee consisted of George Burbidge, Weber County, Kent Montague, Utah Division of Water Quality, and Jack Wilbur, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

## Governor's Water Quality Awards: Individual Achievement in NPS Efforts

Many of the recipients in this category are farmers and ranchers who are working hard to put conservation projects on their land. Other recipients including some of the local government liaisons who work tirelessly to help local landowners improve water quality. Some of the individuals receiving awards are from the Upper Sevier River Community Watershed effort. They are mentioned by name on page four of this publication. The remaining individual award winners are from throughout Utah and are mentioned on this page. Among the individuals who were honored was Acle Gillies, chairman

of the Beaver Soil Conservation District and local champion of watershed improvement projects in Beaver County. "Acle is 85 years old but he never misses a meeting," said Mark Nelson, Beaver County extension agent. Nelson, who nominated Gillies for the award, said Gillies works harder than most people half his age. "He is gung ho, excited and vibrant. At his age that is unbelievable," Nelson continued. Nelson, who was also honored for his work coordinating the watershed project, said that the landowners like Gillies are the people who make watershed efforts work.



George Burbidge, left (Weber County), hands Acle Gillies, Beaver County, his award.

Governors Water Quality Individual Awards	
Recipient	Affiliation/Location
Acle Gillies	Beaver Watershed
Professor Richard Toth	Utah State University
Dale Barney	Spanish Fork River
Paul Leishman	Cub River Watershed
Penny Trinca	Utah Association of Coservation Districts
Paul Pace	Fremont River
Mark Nelson	Beaver River Watershed
Wayne Greenhalgh	UACD Animal Feeding Operation Specialist

# Utah Watershed Review

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## Editorial Review

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# Governor's Water Quality Awards: Educator Achievement in NPS Efforts

This is the newest category to the Governor's Water Quality Awards. However, the awards committee stresses that it is a very important category. Far too often environmental education is taught from a book in a classroom. The teachers recognized on this page have all started or significantly advanced outdoor environmental education programs.

Larry White, for example, pictured below, has worked with local county extension agent Mark Nelson for several years now on the Beaver Watershed Day. Over the years

junior high and high school students have spent time in early spring planting dormant willows along the Beaver River and helping out with other riparian improvement efforts.

Marilyn Bulkley, a fifth grade teacher in Panguitch, was honored for starting an outdoor education program in the Upper Sevier River Watershed.

"The program was created to teach students from the ages of 9-12, grades 4th-6th about the restoration and management of the Upper Sevier River Watershed and the preserva-

tion of our natural resource in our area," said Bulkley. "Students learn about the links between uses of the watershed and conservation of its resources.

During the camp's six weeks, 12 classes are taught. In its first year, the camp included 43 students and two teachers.

Bulkley got a \$5,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service to put on the camp.

The final three educator recipients are from the same school: Spring Creek Middle School.

Carol White, Kris Whoolery and Randy Christensen coordinate a water quality monitoring and restoration project every year on Spring Creek in the south end of Cache County.

The program, which has been going on for several years includes classroom instruction and watershed action. The monitoring data collected is posted on a web site run by Utah State University Extension. Students can compare their data with data collected by students in past years to analyze trends.



George Burbidge, left, Weber County, stands with teacher Larry White, right.

Governor's Water Quality Educators Awards	
Recipient	Affiliation/Location
Larry White	Beaver River Watershed
Marilyn Bulkley	Upper Sevier River
Carol White	Little Bear -Spring Creek
Kris Whoolery	Little Bear - Spring Creek
Randy Christensen	Little Bear - Spring Creek

# Governor's Water Quality Awards: Group Achievement in NPS Efforts

The group achievement category honored groups justing starting in watershed improvement to groups far along in the process.

The Salt Lake County Stormwater Stormwater Coalition continues to be recognized for their ongoing stormwater education efforts.

In 1999, the coalition launched a news series of advertisements and a new approach with Droplet. A cartoon animated water drop, Drop-let was part of a new approach: Get a message top adults through their children.

A short video and activity book

with the Droplet character are distributed to elementary school children and teachers are shown how to incorporate stormwater education into their mandated core educational curriculum. The idea is that the stu-dents will take home what they have learned to their parents. At the same time, a television commercial with Droplet in it and a newspaper supple-ment, both targeted to adults, were released to help precede or reinforce the message coming home from school.

Governor's Water Quality Group Awards	
Recipient	Location/Affiliation
Salt Lake County Stormwater Coalition	Salt Lake County
Cub River Watershed Group	Cache County
Weber River Riverkeeper	Weber County
Spanish Fork River Group	Sanpete and Utah counties
Upper Sevier I&E Committee	Kane, Iron, Garfield and Piute counties



# Rancher Henrie Honored as Upper Sevier Watershed Effort Takes Shape

Allen K. Henrie wears many different hats. He is the chairman of the Color Country Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, the chairman of the Upper Sevier Soil Conservation District (SCD), Panguitch City Manager,

Upper Sevier River Community Watershed effort. Henrie's purebred cattle can still graze the grassy stream banks but their visits are carefully timed and controlled. That's why fences are so important. He is looking forward to



Upper Sevier River Awards	
Award	Recipient
Governor's W.Q-individual	Allen K. Henrie, land owner
Governor's W.Q-individual	Kevin Heaton, Extension
Governor's W.Q-individual	Susan McCulla and John Parson, volunteers
Governor's W.Q-educator	Marilyn Bulkley, teacher
Governor's W.Q-group	Upper Sevier Information and Education committee

(Photo to left) Allen Henrie, right, stands with his son, Troy, posing for a photo with his Governor's Water Quality Award. Henrie, who was not able to attend the awards ceremonies in St. George, accepted the honor during a resource tour of the Upper Sevier River.

### Coming in December

More stories about the Upper Sevier River Community Watershed effort.

family man and rancher.

It is the last two titles of which Henrie is most proud. "We've done a lot of work here, but we still have a lot to do," Henrie said at recent Upper Sevier River Watershed tour.

Henrie is proving that cows and creeks can mix at his 900 acre ranch above Panguitch, Utah. In order to maintain riparian and pasture health, Henrie has used several management tools, including fencing, irrigation management, pasture rotation and lots of willows.

A recipient of one of the 2001 Utah Governor's Water Quality Awards for outstanding individual contributions to water quality, Henrie talked fondly and emotionally about his late father's commitment to conservation while posing for a photo with his son, Troy, to whom he has passed the conservation message.

Henrie grew up with natural resource conservation in his blood. His father, Konroy, lived and breathed the stewardship of animals, plants, soil, water, and wildlife, Henrie recalled.

He has combined several local, state, federal and private funding sources with a lot of hard to work to become a leader in the growing

getting more willows established. He said he sees a day soon when Panguitch Creek will provide a healthy aquatic environment for the fish and other wildlife.

"I hope our efforts can be an example for others in the Sevier River area," Henrie said.

Henrie has become an important player in the community watershed effort that began in 1998, when the Upper Sevier SCD developed a process in which local resource issues, problems, and opportunities could be addressed through a cooperative effort within the watershed.

The SCD wanted to target stakeholders including private landowners, local officials, state and federal land managers to participate in the effort.

The effort got a much needed infusion of money when the watershed was selected as one of 12 watersheds to be funded on a national scale from a U.S. Forest Service Watershed Restoration Program. So far \$700,000 has been committed to the Upper Sevier Watershed effort.

Other federal funding has started trickling in from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and EPA, under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.



The riparian area at Allen Henrie's ranch looks very healthy a year after fencing off the creek and planting new willows.

The Utah Division of Water Quality is also working on a Total Maximum Daily Load plan for the Watershed.

Kevin Heaton, Utah State University Extension agent from Panguitch, also received a Governor's Water Quality Award in the Individual category for his tireless work in coordinating the conservation efforts.

The watershed project's information and education committee was recognized for a group award. Susan McCulla and John Parson were

recognized for their outstanding volunteer work as newsletter editors and web site coordinators. Finally fifth grade teacher Marilyn Bulkley was recognized in the educator category for her work in initiating the Outdoor Summer Science School program.

The Upper Sevier Community Watershed effort was the only watershed recognized in all three categories during an awards ceremony at the Utah NPS conference.